
In the US, the Democratic Presidential contender Barack Obama has claimed victory over his rival Hillary Clinton for their party's nomination to fight the general election. He says he has the level of support he needs for the nomination. This report from Justin Webb:

Someone said of the two candidates that Hillary Clinton promised to improve America - Barack Obama promised to improve Americans. In a nation **keen on self-help** his message worked. It **faltered** in recent weeks - it did not appeal to the entire party - but it **brought in new blood** and new enthusiasm in areas Hillary Clinton could not reach.

His campaign was also **fabulously well planned** and executed - his people knew at the beginning how they would put together a victory. Mrs Clinton became **a formidable campaigner** - but her early efforts were weak. She must decide now whether she backs Obama **four square** or **waits in the wings** hoping for another chance in four years if he fails.

Obama will be tempted to offer her some **inducement** to play nicely - but tempted as well to be rid of her and her husband and **strike out on his own**. The battle with John McCain will be tough and probably close but Obama has now **come through a firestorm** and shown his ability to survive.

Justin Webb, BBC News, Washington

Vocabulary and definitions

keen on self-help	that likes to solve problems using one's own abilities and effort, rather than relying on someone else's support or guidance
faltered	lost some of its strength/power; here, did not appeal to everyone
brought in new blood	won support of people who did not support them previously
fabulously well planned	extremely carefully thought of and well prepared in advance
a formidable campaigner	here, someone who fights to become a Presidential candidate with such skill and strength that people show wonder and respect for them
four square	with certainty and determination
waits in the wings	is ready and prepared to do something (here, to be nominated a Presidential candidate); available when needed
inducement	here, a prospect or reward that would give Hilary Clinton a reason to support Barack Obama
strike out on his own	independently continue to fight to become President with energy, enthusiasm and strength
come through a firestorm	coped and dealt with very difficult, uncontrollable situations

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7434791.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/06/080604_clinton_obama.shtml